

# *Trees on Maine Street*

∞ *The Project Canopy Bulletin* ∞

*July-August 2014*



## **U.S. Forest Service Announces Support for Community Forests**

*Grants will benefit communities in N.Y., Calif., Ky., Maine, Wis., Vt., Mont., and Mass.*

WASHINGTON, June 27, 2014 -- The U.S. Forest Service announced today nearly \$2.3 million in grants to help communities in eight states secure community forests.

"These forests are established through place based support with benefits reaching far beyond the local community," said Chief Tom Tidwell. "This program conserves key parts of the nation's forest for future generations, while providing thousands of Americans enhanced access to the great outdoors."

The Community Forest Program (CFP) protects forests that are important for people and the places they call home. Community forests provide many benefits such as places to recreate and enjoy nature; they protect habitat, water quality and other environmental benefits, and they can provide economic benefits through timber resources. The program provides financial assistance grants to local governments, tribes and qualified nonprofit organizations working to establish community forests with a focus on economic and environmental benefits, education, forest stewardship and recreation opportunities.

The grants will be matched with an additional \$4.9 million in funding from other partners on the projects, and represent a strategic investment in local communities, a key component of the President's America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

### **North Falmouth Community Forest - Maine \$231,800**

The Town of Falmouth, Maine will add an additional 96-acres of forest land to the existing 274-acre North Falmouth Community Forest. The town plans to tie this property to a larger recreational trail network and provide education opportunities for students and the local community. Additionally, the town plans to thin less vigorous trees. The biomass from the will be used in wood-fired boilers that provide heat for area schools. The harvest income will be used to further the town's open space conservation efforts.

All CFP projects must ensure public access to the protected lands, and the communities must be involved in the process of developing a forest plan and determining long-term goals for the forests. Implementing the Community Forest Program is a USDA priority, as it supports conservation efforts that create, expand and enhance community green spaces.

The mission of the U.S. Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency also has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.

### **PROJECT CANOPY**

assists communities and nonprofit, grassroots organizations in building self-sustaining urban and community forestry programs with strong local support.

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## *News and Updates*

### **Escaped Pin Oak in Maine?**



Some Maine researchers are looking for help from foresters and landowners in locating “wild” pin oaks – trees that have seeded naturally, often from pin oaks planted decades ago.

Pin oak is not thought of as native to Maine, but it was – and is – commonly planted along highways and streets throughout Maine. It rarely “escapes”, or spreads naturally into neighboring woodlands, but in a few cases it has done so successfully. A research project based out of Colby College is investigating why pin oak spreads in some situations, but not others. They hypothesize that genetic mixing between different source populations leads to hybrid vigor in escaped populations. They are using DNA markers to test this idea.

They would be very grateful to hear reports of wild individuals of pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) in Maine or other northern New England states. Larger trees are easy to identify because of their drooping lower branches (forming a “skirt”). You can see some fine specimens at the Kennebunk rest area on the interstate. Leaves look somewhat like red oak but with more rounded sinuses. Younger trees can be distinguished from red oak because the fall foliage is redder and more persistent, and because they leaf out later in the spring. Younger trees are difficult to distinguish from scarlet oak.

Please contact Judy Stone, [jstone@colby.edu](mailto:jstone@colby.edu)



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### **York's Hardy Rhododendrons Founder Passes**

BATH -- Thomas S. York, 73, of Bath, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Monday, June 30, 2014, following a three month battle with CNS Lymphoma. Born in Rumford, Tom was the son of Edith and Samuel York. He graduated from Morse High School in 1959 in Bath, and the University of Maine in 1963, majoring in mechanical engineering. Tom met his wife, Beth Kendall York, at a friend's wedding and enjoyed 49 great years of marriage together.

Tom began his career as a mechanical engineer at Nestle USA in Connecticut, before returning to work in Maine at Bath Iron Works where he held multiple positions including Vice President of Facilities. He first retired at the age of 52 following 25+ rewarding years at BIW. Tom started his second career growing and selling Rhododendrons and Azaleas in his seven green houses at York's Hardy Rhododendrons in North Bath. He officially retired for the second and final time last year after 20 years of the most stress free and enjoyable job Tom could have imagined in the flower business.

Tom enjoyed camping, boating, fishing, photography, gardening and spending time with his grandchildren. Watching his grandchildren who called him 'Beeps' play soccer, field hockey, lacrosse and ski were probably his most enjoyable days. Within the past year, he also picked up the hobby of building beautiful handcrafted canoes.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Beth York of Bath; two children, Andy York and his wife Michelle of Scarborough, and Julie York of Massachusetts; two grandchildren, Maddie and Kayleigh York of Scarborough; and a brother, Samuel York and his wife Donna of Cumberland and their children, Christopher and Heather.

The York family wishes to extend their appreciation to the caregivers who gave loving care to Tom while at the Gibson wing at Maine Medical Center and at Gosnell Hospice. Visiting hours will be held on Thursday, July 3, 2014, from 10 - 11 a.m., at the David E. Desmond & Son Funeral Home, 638 High St., Bath. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. To share your thoughts and condolences with the family, please visit [www.desmondfuneralhomes.com](http://www.desmondfuneralhomes.com). In lieu of flowers, the family would like you to please consider a memorial donation in Tom's name to:

The Gibson Pavilion  
Maine Medical Center  
22 Bramhall St.  
Portland, Maine 04102  
or Kennebec Estuary Land Trust  
P.O. Box 1128  
Bath, Maine 04530

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*"Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."*  
- Warren Buffett

### Students help reforest Pine Grove Park and learn about forestry practices



(Madison, ME, June 24, 2014)— Fourth graders from Lyseth Elementary School planted white pine, balsam fir and black spruce tree seedlings in Pine Grove Park, an urban park nestled in Portland's North Deering neighborhood Thursday, June 19, celebrating UPM's global Plant-a-Tree initiative. Several community partners came together to donate and assist with the event: Lyseth Elementary School, Maine TREE Foundation, Plum Creek Timber Company and hosts City of Portland and UPM Madison.

"This is a really great partnership and we were pleased to have the opportunity to work with the students. The planting will be a gift for many years to come and a permanent, natural reminder in the park signifying the importance of biodiversity at Madison and UPM operations around the world," said Dan Mallett, UPM Madison Manager of Sustainability.

The City of Portland had closed Pine Grove Park back in March while the forest management team thinned the wooded area of declining White Pine to enhance the overall forest health. "The newly planted trees should attract more wildlife and add some tree diversity which will help the forest sustainability. We would

Did you know you can always find the Forest & Shade Tree - Insect & Disease Conditions for Maine online? Visit [http://maine.gov/dacf/mfs/publications/condition\\_reports.html](http://maine.gov/dacf/mfs/publications/condition_reports.html)

like to thank UPM Madison, Plum Creek and the Maine Tree Foundation along with the fourth grade students from Lyseth School for assisting," said Jeff Tarling, Portland City Arborist.

Sherry Huber, Maine Tree Foundation Executive Director, said, "The children learned that while it is usually unnecessary to plant trees in Maine since we have such amazing natural regeneration, in situations like this, planting means greater forest biodiversity. Maine TREE's mission is to educate and advocate for the sustainable use of the forest. One of the ways we achieve this is by partnering with the forest community to sponsor hands-on school events like this."

The UPM Plant-a-Tree initiative is being celebrated at sites in several countries including China, Germany, UK, Finland, Estonia, Uruguay and Russia. These events not only provide the opportunity to plant trees, but to educate school students and the communities about the importance of sustainable forestry, biodiversity, renewable resources, ecology and much more.



-Portland City Arborist Jeff Tarling speaks to Fourth graders from Lyseth Elementary

*"Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability."*  
- Sam Keen

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## Community Wrap-up

*"No town can fail of beauty, though its walks were gutters and its houses  
bovels, if venerable trees make magnificent  
colonnades along its streets."*

- Henry Ward Beecher, Proverbs, 1887

### A New Generation of Foresters in Houlton

On 23 May 2014, REC Jim Ecker and District Forester Dan Jacobs provided forestry and tree planting lessons to 100 sixth grade students from Southside Elementary School in Houlton. The lessons were part of an outdoor field day and community service day for the students. As part of the lesson provided by Ecker and Jacobs, the students planted 100 white spruce trees in an unused section of the Houlton Community Golf Course. This small buffer will provide a great windbreak for the golf course as the trees mature and it will also help the golf course reduce mowing costs over time. Another component of the forestry session, was a brief discussion about forest management and the value of trees to the Maine economy. Having the LP mill in New Limerick visible to the students in the background was ideal for this part of the lesson. All in all, it was a great opportunity for MFS to provide an introduction to forestry to a young audience. As a side note, the MFS greatly appreciates the tree seedlings provided by Irving Woodlands for this planting project.

#### Calendar

##### July

17 Friends of Forest City Trees Mechanics Hall, Portland

17- Aug 6 "Tree Chuggers" Woodland Forums 324-1596

23 Urban Forestry Today: An Online Learning Forum for Professionals and Tree Enthusiasts Noon-1:00pm Visit [www.joinwebinar.com](http://www.joinwebinar.com) (and input the code #698426215)

24 MA Nursery & Landscape Assn. Summer Conference, Deerfield, MA

27 Farm-to-Farm Trail Walk, Springvale  
[www.sanfordtrails.org](http://www.sanfordtrails.org)

31 Monitoring and Management Strategies for Hemlock in Northern New England States Field Tour – Gorham and Harpswell [mesafor.org](http://mesafor.org)

##### August

2-6 ISA International Conference, Milwaukee

7 Yankee Woodlot Tour, Wells Reserve 207-646-1555

##### September

6 2014 Annual Tree Farm/SWOAM Field Day—Hidden Valley Nature Center

### Community Forest creates jobs and income in Errol, NH

[Economic and Community Development through Community Forests](#)--based on the first seven years of community ownership of 13 Mile Woods Community Forest in Errol, N.H.--is another important step in the collaborative work of the Northern Forest Center and The Trust for Public Land to support communities in protecting natural resources and advancing community and economic development through locally owned and managed forestland.

Communities in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont are creating and managing Community Forests, creating opportunities to generate income and jobs from sustainable forest management and tourism.

13 Mile Woods Community Forest is a model of what we strive to help communities achieve: 7,100-acres of protected forestland, river front, ponds and trails that are producing timber income, providing wildlife habitat and ensuring that world-class recreational opportunities are available to residents and visitors to the region.

The Trust for Public Land and the Northern Forest Center have worked together and with local communities throughout northern New England since 2005, playing a leadership role to help establish dozens of these ecological and economic assets. We are currently helping 11 more communities create their own Community Forests, each one driven by local priorities, local decision making and community ownership.

*"It is not so much for its beauty that the forest makes a claim upon men's hearts, as for that subtle something, that quality of air that emanation from old trees, that so wonderfully changes and renews a weary spirit."*

- Robert Louis Stevenson

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

*Maine Forest Service*

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